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Melodic Intonation Therapy (NCD 170.2)

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Summary

Overview
Melodic intonation therapy is a technique used in language rehabilitation. Its purpose is to teach aphasic patients to produce useful phrases by intoning them in a melodic pattern with strong rhythmic support. Limited studies by a few institutions show some benefit for a small number of nonfluent aphasic patients otherwise unresponsive to conventional therapy.

Reimbursement Guidelines
Melodic intonation therapy is a covered service only for nonfluent aphasic patients unresponsive to conventional therapy, and only when the conditions for coverage of speech pathology services are met.

References Included (but not limited to):

CMS NCD
NCD 170.2 Melodic Intonation Therapy

CMS LCD

CMS Benefit Policy Manual
Chapter 15; § 220.1 Conditions of Coverage and Payment for Outpatient Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, or Speech-Language Pathology Services, § 230.6 Therapy Services Furnished Under Arrangements With Providers and Clinics

UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Coverage Summaries
Rehabilitation - Medical Rehabilitation (OT, PT and ST, including Cognitive Rehabilitation)

History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Revisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/23/2014</td>
<td>Annual review; no changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/13/2013</td>
<td>Annual review; no changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/26/2012</td>
<td>No changes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>